



Clark County

September 2020

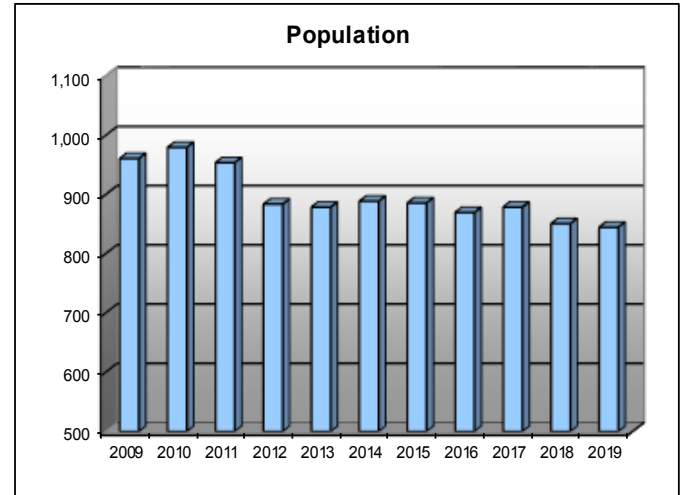
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DEPT. OF LABOR

Workforce Trends

Population

Clark County is the least populated county in the state with less than one person per square mile. In 2000, population peaked at just over one thousand, but has since struggled to maintain that level. After falling to below 900 people in 2003 the county began to see moderate population growth which continued until it peaked in 2010 at 980. Population in the county began to fall towards the end of 2009 after Idahoan Foods closed down a potato processing plant. The plant was the county's largest employer and had supported 128 jobs—roughly 23 percent of the county's workforce. Population has fluctuated since 2010 reaching 845 in 2019, a loss of 135 people.

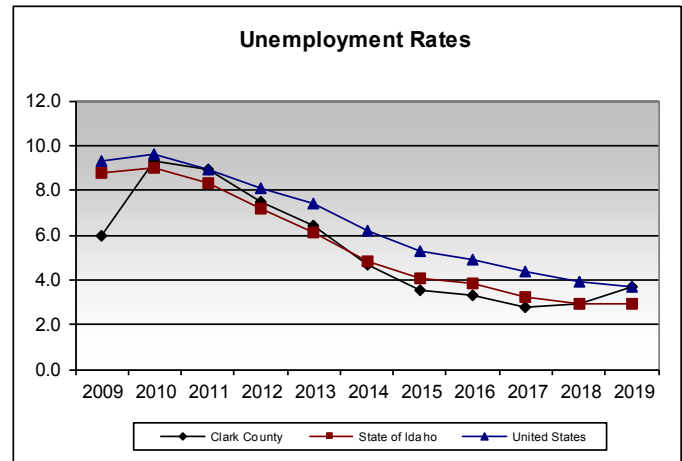
Clark County has two incorporated towns—Dubois and Spencer. In 2019 the population of these towns were 584 in Dubois and 32 in Spencer.



Labor Force & Employment

With a small labor force and population, unemployment rates can fluctuate significantly. The 2019 unemployment rate at 3.3 percent slightly above the state rate but below the national rate. Unemployment in the agriculturally dependent county spiked from 2001 to 2005 because of water shortages. The county experienced a steady decline in its labor force from 1998 to 2002 before it began slowly rebounding. The population is aging as younger people are drawn away by urban education and employment.

Farming is the largest industry. Over 66 percent of the land is owned by the federal government and another 7 percent by the state. The majority is considered rangeland, and sheep are a major commodity. The U.S. Department of Agriculture operates a research faculty, which studies and develops new breeds of sheep. Agriculture employees 29 percent of the workers in the county.



Among the other industrial sectors, government provides the second most jobs at 31 percent. Education and health services account for 20 percent followed by trade, transportation and utilities employing 12 percent of workers. Efforts by economic development and county officials are underway to develop an energy park within the county.

The county is located on the Montana border and includes part of the Continental Divide. The city of Dubois is virtually the last place of refuge when winter storms intermittently cause closure of Interstate 15.

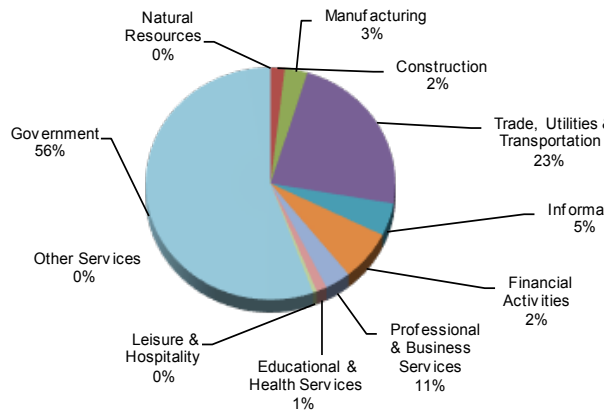
Labor Force	Aug 19	Aug 20
Civilian Labor Force	371	377
Total Employment	355	364
Unemployed	16	13
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.3	3.4
State of Idaho % Unemployed	2.9	4.2
U.S. % Unemployed	3.7	8.4

Labor Force	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Civilian Labor Force	549	537	516	424	425	443	395	394	398	381	378
Unemployment	33	50	46	32	27	21	14	13	11	11	14
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.0	9.3	8.9	7.5	6.4	4.7	3.5	3.3	2.8	2.9	3.7
Employment	516	487	470	392	398	422	381	381	387	370	364

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Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2019



Covered Employment & Wages

Covered employment decreased 20 percent 2007 and 2017. Average wages increased \$11,639, or 35 percent, during the decade. For the industries that had wage data releasable, there were not industries that experienced a decrease between 2016 and 2017. The closure of the potato processing plant has had a dramatic impact on the county's employment and wages. It should be noted that these wages are counted where the job is located.

Clark County's per capita income ranks 17th highest in the state at \$39,408.

Covered employment includes jobs subject to state and federal unemployment insurance laws. These laws apply to approximately 92 percent of Idaho's employees.

Major Employers

Clark County
Clark County School District #161
Blaine Larsen Farms, Inc.
Ikes 66 LLC
Aquent LLC
Advantech Solutions III Inc.
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Eastern Idaho Occupational Wages*	Entry Wage	Median Wage
Cashiers	\$8.39	\$10.51
Farm Equipment Mechanics	\$14.12	\$20.59
Farmworkers & Laborers	\$9.74	\$11.93
Food Preparation Workers	\$8.57	\$10.80
Graders & Sorters, Agricultural Products	\$8.29	\$10.05
Industrial Truck & Tractor Operators	\$11.84	\$15.24
Office Clerks, General	\$9.99	\$14.77
Packers & Packagers, Hand	\$8.68	\$11.36
Retail Salespersons	\$8.83	\$13.52
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	\$12.58	\$18.64
Truck Drivers, Light	\$10.48	\$14.39

* Additional occupational wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor website at <https://lmi.idaho.gov/oes>

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 2009, 2018 & 2019	2009		2018		2019	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	575	\$32,975	440	\$42,936	329	\$41,215
Agriculture	89	\$23,206	126	\$36,432	95	\$35,098
Mining	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Construction	3	\$23,027	4	\$28,494	4	\$28,546
Manufacturing	204	\$37,128	**	**	**	**
Trade, Utilities, & Transportation	37	\$19,631	55	\$50,023	54	\$51,614
Information	9	\$39,446	**	**	**	**
Financial Activities	12	\$63,859	**	**	**	**
Professional and Business Services	51	\$49,580	82	\$60,043	8	\$101,675
Educational and Health Services	3	\$36,944	**	**	**	**
Leisure and Hospitality	**	**	**	**	**	**
Other Services	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Government	164	\$28,964	133	\$33,234	129	\$34,239

Per Capita Income	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Clark County	\$24,651	\$25,561	\$33,966	\$32,941	\$42,892	\$36,380	\$36,048	\$37,375	\$38,537	\$39,408
State of Idaho	\$31,186	\$31,957	\$33,515	\$35,188	\$36,200	\$37,896	\$39,857	\$40,670	\$42,094	\$43,901
United States	\$39,284	\$40,546	\$42,735	\$44,599	\$44,851	\$47,058	\$48,978	\$49,870	\$51,885	\$54,446

Information provided by Bureau Economic Analysis